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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/078,003

02/20/2002

Nahoko Takano

Q68521

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7590 05/31/2007
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EXAMINER

ELALLAM, AHMED

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2616

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/31/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/078,003

Applicant(s)

TAKANO ET AL.

Examiner

AHMED ELALLAM

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 12-22 and 24 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10, 11 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is responsive to Amendment filed on 03/13/2007. The Amendment has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

1. Claims 10, 11 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being Anticipated by Admitted Prior Art, specification page 3, line 15-page 4, line 20. Hereinafter referred to as APA.

Regarding claims 10, 11, and 23, the APA discloses the base stations transmit pilot signals at a predetermined power, and the mobile station measures the reception quality of the pilot signals transmitted by the base stations having the links set up, so that the base stations of high reception quality is determined as transmitting base stations and any station other than the transmitting base station stops at least some of the transmission. A base station control unit for controlling the base stations having the links set up determines base station identifiers of the plurality of base stations for having the links set up respectively when the mobile station starts the soft handover. Moreover, the above base station identifiers are base station unique information for identifying individual base stations. In the base station control unit, code words representing combinations of the base station identifiers are defined, and the base stations and the mobile station have such information. The mobile station transmits the code word representing the combination of the base station identifiers of the base stations

determined as the transmitting base stations to the base stations having the links set up. The base station having the link set up judges which defined code words the received code word is, and judges from a table indicating correspondence between the code words and the base station identifiers whether the base station identifier of the base station is included. Consequently, the base station judges itself to be the transmitting base station, in the case where the base station identifier of the station is included. Then, the base station performs the transmission by the downlink. On the other hand, in the case where the base station identifier of the base station is not included, the station stops the transmission. Thus, it is possible to have the transmission performed only by the base stations of little propagation loss, so that the interference with the downlink decreases and the link capacity is expected to increase.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-9, 12-22, and 24 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10, 11 and 23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's argument with regard to claims 10, 11 and 23 are noted. However the disputed limitation of "base station identifiers in a predetermined order" appears in the preamble. The recitation "assigning base station identifiers to base stations in predetermined order" has not been given patentable weight because the recitation

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occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hira*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

In addition, a predetermined order of base stations identifiers assignment is within the teaching of the APA, because each base station has its own identifier that is allocated by the control unit, and given the **defined** code words of APA representing the combinations of the base station identifiers that are communicated to each base station having the link set up, would require a predetermined ordered identifiers within each code word.

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to AHMED ELALLAM whose telephone number is (571) 272-3097. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi H. Pham can be reached on (571) 272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AHMED ELALLAM
Examiner
Art Unit 2616
5/29/07


CHI PHAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

5/29/07